

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Regents' Conference Room
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200**

Joshua Busby, Chair, Presiding

Via Zoom Video

January 12, 2023

10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions – Joshua Busby

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Joshua welcomed new COSA member Dr. Jennifer Alt, Redlands Community College, and Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Dr. Alt and Dr. Placido both provided a brief history of their employment background. Dr. Placido is looking forward to feedback on how the State Regents' office can better serve the council.

2. Approval of December 8, 2022 Minutes – Joshua Busby

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

3. Hunger-Free Campus Act Pilot Program – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay spoke with Representative Daniel Pae about the differing funding amounts for 2-year and 4-year institutions. It was decided to revise the Memorandum of Understanding to a more equitable distribution of funds to seven institutions with each receiving approximately \$22,500. Lindsay said, once the revised MOU is approved, a Google application will be emailed to the council. Lindsay also mentioned the Oklahoma pilot was modeled after the Maryland Hunger-Free Program and that she will be meeting with the director of the Maryland program this week.

Wendy Yoder (SWOSU) asked for a brief overview of how the funds are intended to be used. Lindsay said the matching grant funds are to be used to support an institution's food pantry. There is also a requirement to employ a staff member to assist students with enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Lindsay said further information will be emailed with the application.

4. Legislative Update – Joel Dean, Government Relations and Workforce Development Coordinator, OSRHE

Joel advised the council that the legislative tour scheduled for Tulsa Community College on Tuesday, January 23rd has been canceled due to the House scheduling budget hearings. He mentioned the bill filing deadline is next week. There are roughly 400 bills with about 1,000

more expected. Higher Education Day will be at the State Capitol February 14, 2023. A program to honor all members who received the Distinguished Service Awards will be held in Room 100.

Joshua (LU) mentioned other special interest groups are at the Capitol the same day as Higher Education Day when it previously was set aside for higher education. Joel said the rules have changed, and the rotunda will not be used for other groups that day unless they have been given an exemption by the House and Senate chairs. The events for Higher Education Day will be held in the Supreme Court hallway, Room 200, and the house chamber in the afternoon.

Joel said a full legislative briefing will be sent the week after the bill deadline.

Ina Agnew (OSUIT) asked about recommendations from the Task Force on Concurrent Enrollment. Joel said this bill stalled last year, and he is not aware of the bill being filed yet but will try to get details.

5. Student Financial Wellness Survey

- Jeff Webster, Director of Research, Trellis Research
- Carla Fletcher, Senior Research Analyst, Trellis Research

Jeff said he was glad to hear COSA being interested in student hunger, veteran, and mental health issues on Oklahoma campuses. He gave a brief history and introduced Carla Fletcher. Jeff said their mission is to develop and advance initiatives that grow individual economic mobility and expand community prosperity. Jeff mentioned 393 research reports were completed in FY22 and that institutions and policymakers are provided with insight to student success. He said the best way to keep up with their publications is through their website and the link www.tressliscompany.org/research and a QR code were shared. Jeff explained the Student Financial Wellness Survey as a free, self-reported, online survey that documents the financial well-being and student success indicators of postsecondary students. Trellis uses the data to produce customized reports for a participating school and aggregate the data to inform policymakers. Each campus receives a 40-page customized report with peer group comparisons, a 15-page technical supplement, a 1-page infographic and access to additional ad hoc reporting. Jeff said Trellis is happy to presents to campus stakeholders. Institutions have access to aggregate reports and research briefs on specific topics.

Jeff provided the overall SFWS metrics for Spring 2018 to Fall 2022, and said University of Oklahoma, The University of Tulsa, Langston University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University have participated in the survey. Jeff said the survey is fairly long but only takes about 14 minutes to complete. It includes questions on paying for college, student debt, credit card usage and risky borrowing, higher education decision-making factors, financial behaviors, supporting family while in college, basic needs security and mental health.

Carla shared the results from the Fall 2021 aggregate survey. She said 57% of respondents used personal savings, 60% used current wages and only 5% are able to solely rely on self-help resources to pay for school. She said 64% of students worry about how they will have enough money to pay for school with 22% running out of money six or more times in the past year. More than half of the students answered they would have trouble getting \$500 cash or credit in an emergency situation. Carla mentioned credit cards are another way to look at financial security. The vast majority of respondents who would use a credit card said they always pay their credit card bill on time but less than half pay off the full balance each month.

Almost half of respondents reported experiencing housing insecurity at some point during 2021, and included in that is 15% of respondents who experience homelessness at some point while they were enrolled. She said 19% of respondents reported having very low food security and an additional 23% had low food security. Anxiety is the most common mental health concern seen among college students. Almost half of the students screened were positive for anxiety.

Carla said all Trellis research team members are certified in human subjects research and have additional corporate training and procedures on data security and data retention schedules.

She asked the council to encourage their students to participate in the survey and to offer a modest incentive to improve response rates. Trellis also offers a survey-wide incentive to participants. Carla mentioned the steps to participate and provided a timeline for recruitment, onboarding, launch and post launch. She said Trellis will provide materials to institutions. Contact information was provided for both Jeff and Carla. jeff.webster@trelliscompany.org and carla.fletcher@trelliscompany.org.

Joshua said Langston University has worked with Trellis to serve their students. He thanked them for all they do. Michael McClendon (TU) said he did appreciate the information received through the survey and that TU plans to continue to partner with Trellis.

6. Future Teacher Scholarship & Employment Incentive Program (Inspired to Teach)

- Dr. Goldie Thompson, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Teacher Preparation and Special Programs, Oklahoma Teacher Connection, OSRHE
- Jess Tucker, Coordinator, Teacher Education Scholarships & Incentive Programs, OSRHE

Goldie thanked the council for the opportunity to share information on their new scholarship, Inspired to Teach. She reminded the council of the teacher shortage in Oklahoma and spoke of the State Regents' recruitment and retention efforts for middle school, high school and collegiate level students. Goldie said the Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program (TSEIP) is still in existence. The purpose of TSEIP is to recruit students enrolled in a major course of study in mathematics or science education. Students must serve a minimum of five years in an Oklahoma public school at the secondary level teaching math or science to receive the incentive payment, which is a set amount but may vary yearly depending on funding availability.

Jess Tucker provided more details about the Inspired to Teach scholarship, which began July 1, 2022. Participants must graduate from an Oklahoma high school, declare a teacher education major or pre-education major, maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, meet institution standards for regular admission, continue to meet satisfactory progress and be enrolled full time (exception for student teaching internship or an accommodation on file with their institution's disability office). Students must apply through their institution's Inspired to Teach coordinator prior to their final semester in college. The deadline for Spring 2023 is February 10, 2023. Transfer students already participating in the program must submit a new application at their new institution.

Jess mentioned the award tiers, requirements and funds awarded. She also explained the employment incentive award payments. Eligible Inspired to Teach participants can participate in both Inspired to Teach and TSEIP. Jess shared statistics of Inspired to Teach and the top five declared majors. The goal is to have 3,000 participants by spring 2023. The program contact information is futureteachers@osrhe.edu and website www.inspired2teachok.org.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

7. State Regents' Update – Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, OSRHE

Robert asked the council to share the Inspired to Teach information to enrollment management personnel on their campus. He said he has been in his position about one month and is still digging in to understand how his role works. He said he looks forward to automating many programs administered by the State Regents. Chancellor Garrett assigned him to review the Academic Affairs State Policy, which is chapter 3, and is looking to bring some innovative new looks to all programs. He mentioned concurrent enrollment is a program he is passionate about, as he developed the program in Maine, and said there are many other models than the one used in Oklahoma. He will seek input and partnership on decisions from the council and looks forward to engaging with others. Robert said academic affairs policies have connection to all aspects of the university operation to include student affairs, which is probably impacting the success in the processes and policies that we have. He told the council he will be their chief advocate if there is something that they have always wondered why it is done a certain way.

Ina Agnew (OSUIT) said she will email a document and the law regarding concurrent enrollment to Robert.

8. Announcements – Joshua Busby

- Joshua thanked Liz McCraw (SEOSU) for bringing the Oklahoma College Student Personnel Association (OCSPA) information last month. He said the committee has been working with the past president of OCSPA to get this organization restarted.
- Joshua thanked the council for the work they do daily.
- The February 9, 2023, Executive Committee meeting and regular COSA meeting will be held at Rose State College Student Union.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

October 17, 2023 – 2023 Oklahoma Statewide Transfer Student Success Conference, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater